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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 09/770,238 | 01/29/2001 | Mitsuo Saeki | 1080. 1090/JDH | 6797 |
| 21171 | 7590 | 09/29/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005 | | | | STERRETT, JEFFREY L |
| ART UNIT | | PAPER NUMBER | | |
| | | | | 2838 |

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Advisory Action | Application No. | Applicant(s) | |
| | 09/770,238 | SAEKI ET AL. <i>PL</i> | |
| | Examiner | Art Unit | |
| | Jeffrey L. Sterrett | 2838 | |

--The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

THE REPLY FILED 9/20/04 FAILS TO PLACE THIS APPLICATION IN CONDITION FOR ALLOWANCE. Therefore, further action by the applicant is required to avoid abandonment of this application. A proper reply to a final rejection under 37 CFR 1.113 may only be either: (1) a timely filed amendment which places the application in condition for allowance; (2) a timely filed Notice of Appeal (with appeal fee); or (3) a timely filed Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in compliance with 37 CFR 1.114.

PERIOD FOR REPLY [check either a) or b)]

- a) The period for reply expires 3 months from the mailing date of the final rejection.
 - b) The period for reply expires on: (1) the mailing date of this Advisory Action, or (2) the date set forth in the final rejection, whichever is later. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of the final rejection.
- ONLY CHECK THIS BOX WHEN THE FIRST REPLY WAS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE FINAL REJECTION. See MPEP 706.07(f).

Extensions of time may be obtained under 37 CFR 1.136(a). The date on which the petition under 37 CFR 1.136(a) and the appropriate extension fee have been filed is the date for purposes of determining the period of extension and the corresponding amount of the fee. The appropriate extension fee under 37 CFR 1.17(a) is calculated from: (1) the expiration date of the shortened statutory period for reply originally set in the final Office action; or (2) as set forth in (b) above, if checked. Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of the final rejection, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

1. A Notice of Appeal was filed on _____. Appellant's Brief must be filed within the period set forth in 37 CFR 1.192(a), or any extension thereof (37 CFR 1.191(d)), to avoid dismissal of the appeal.
2. The proposed amendment(s) will not be entered because:
 - (a) they raise new issues that would require further consideration and/or search (see NOTE below);
 - (b) they raise the issue of new matter (see Note below);
 - (c) they are not deemed to place the application in better form for appeal by materially reducing or simplifying the issues for appeal; and/or
 - (d) they present additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims.

NOTE: ____.

3. Applicant's reply has overcome the following rejection(s): ____.
4. Newly proposed or amended claim(s) ____ would be allowable if submitted in a separate, timely filed amendment canceling the non-allowable claim(s).
5. The a) affidavit, b) exhibit, or c) request for reconsideration has been considered but does NOT place the application in condition for allowance because: ____.
6. The affidavit or exhibit will NOT be considered because it is not directed SOLELY to issues which were newly raised by the Examiner in the final rejection.
7. For purposes of Appeal, the proposed amendment(s) a) will not be entered or b) will be entered and an explanation of how the new or amended claims would be rejected is provided below or appended.

The status of the claim(s) is (or will be) as follows:

Claim(s) allowed: ____.

Claim(s) objected to: ____.

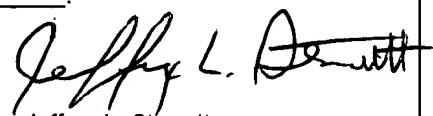
Claim(s) rejected: 2-7, 9-14, 16-21, 23-28, and 30-40.

Claim(s) withdrawn from consideration: ____.

8. The drawing correction filed on ____ is a) approved or b) disapproved by the Examiner.

9. Note the attached Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). ____.

10. Other: ____.


Jeffrey L. Sterrett
Primary Examiner
Art Unit: 2838

1. Applicant's arguments filed September 20, 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In regards to the remarks concerning the alleged distinction of simultaneous switch turn on, the disclosed invention apparently does in fact distinguish over the cited references however the invention as recited by the claims does not. Independent claims 7, 14, 21, 28, and 35-40 merely recite that "the detection circuit monitors a driving signal that drives at least one of the main switch and the synchronous switch to detect a state that the main switch and the synchronous switch are simultaneously turned on". As agreed during the April 21, 2004 interview, the cited references infer the simultaneous switch turn on of the main switch and the synchronous switch from the *drive signals* provided to the main and synchronous switches whereas it was also agreed that applicant's invention literally detects the simultaneous turn on of the main switch and the synchronous *by detecting the voltage across the synchronous switch*. Thus as presently recited the claims do not adequately differentiate over the inferred simultaneous conduction of the cited prior art by clearly and distinctly setting forth the detection of actual simultaneous conduction based upon the determination of the conduction status of one of the switches by detecting the voltage across the synchronous switch for example.